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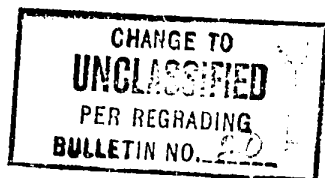
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CPW Report No. 57-A -- COMMUNIST CHINA

(Jan. 12-18, 1953)

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SUMMARY

Although Russia is credited with making possible reconversion of charcoal-burning buses to gasoline, the theme of close Sino-Soviet ties is noticeably deemphasized, suggesting that pressure from above impelled the two-months campaign to build Russian prestige, with a collapse of the movement once the pressure was removed.

However, increased emphasis on Korean war problems is noted, with the Resist-America, Aid-Korea organization laying the groundwork for an intensive campaign. More concern is expressed for preferential treatment, and for concessions to women to induce them to work. In the war itself, extravagant claims are made for front-line propaganda, described in detail. Chinese troops are represented as safe, happy, and well-fed, in contrast to the hopelessly miserable U.N. forces, and imminent collapse of American war efforts through home-front pressure is suggested. This confidence in victory probably will act as a lever to force new sacrifices from the burdened Chinese through the coming RAAK drive.

Concessions to private businessmen still are reported, but occasional reminders of the Three and Five Anti's campaigns also act as a threat to induce cooperation. Basic construction receives expanding emphasis, and an illustration of how this drive will affect consumption goods supplies is gathered from an admission that the Northeast Petroleum Administration has "cut its normal purchases in half" to provide equipment for basic construction. Government departments are condemned with growing severity for failing to make demanded personnel transfers.

New efforts are seen to clamp down on cadres, speed up indoctrination, and centralize controls. Shanghai newspapers come under rigid "coordination," centralized radio control grows, and Peking takes over the publication of reading matter in minority languages. Implementation of the People's Congress and local people's assemblies is admitted by Government leaders to be a practical step to make propaganda more effective, as large areas of resistance to Russianization still exist. In the border areas the PLA apparently must carry the burden for some time to come.

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